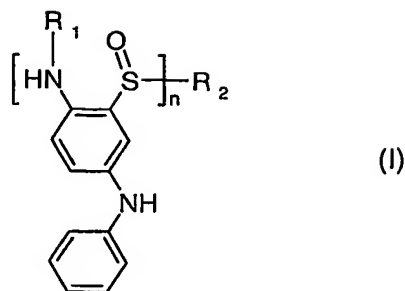


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula I



wherein

R_1 is C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, or allyl;

n is 1 or 2;

if n is 1, R_2 is C_4 - C_{18} alkyl, C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, benzyl, allyl, $(CH_2)_mCOOR_3$, or is $(CH_2)_mCN$;

if n is 2, R_2 is $-S-(CH_2)_p-S$ or $-S-(CH_2)_2-[O-(CH_2)_2]_m-S-$

R_3 is C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, benzyl, allyl;

m is 1 or 2; and

p is a number from 2 to 12.

2. Compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

R_1 is C_2 - C_8 -alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, benzyl, or allyl,

if n is 1, R_2 is C_4 - C_{18} alkyl, cyclohexyl, benzyl, phenyl, $(CH_2)_2COOR_3$, or is $(CH_2)_2CN$;

if n is 2, R_2 is $-S-(CH_2)_p-S$ or $-S-(CH_2)_2-[O-(CH_2)_2]_m-S-$;

R_3 is C_1 - C_{18} alkyl; and

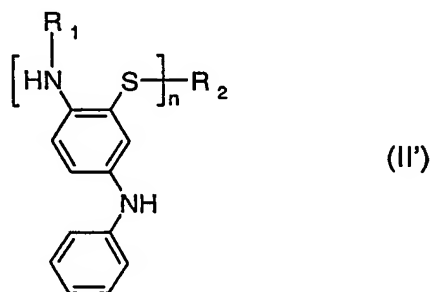
p is a number from 2 to 6.

3. A composition comprising

- a) a naturally occurring or synthetic elastomer susceptible to oxidative, thermal, dynamic, light-induced and/or ozone-induced degradation, and
- b) as stabilizer, at least one compound of the formula I according to claim 1, especially in an amount from 0.05 to 10%, based on the weight of component a).

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4. A composition according to claim 3, in which component a) is a natural or synthetic rubber or a vulcanizate prepared therefrom.
5. A composition according to claim 4, in which component a) is a polydiene vulcanizate, a halogen-containing polydiene vulcanizate, a polydiene copolymer vulcanizate or an ethylene-propylene terpolymer vulcanizate.
6. A composition according to claim 3, further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of pigments, dyes, fillers, levelling assistants, dispersants, plasticizers, vulcanization activators, vulcanization accelerators, vulcanizers, charge control agents, adhesion promoters, antioxidants, flame retardants, UV absorbers and light stabilizers, especially phenolic antioxidants, aminic antioxidants, organic phosphites or phosphonites and/or thio-synergists.
7. A thioether of formula II'



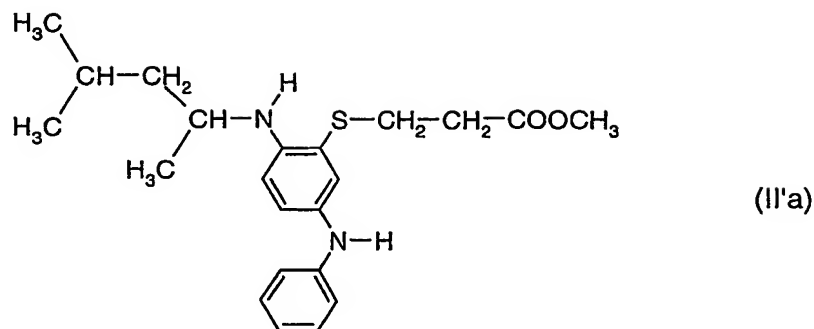
wherein n is 1 or 2,

R₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, or allyl; and

R₂, if n is 1, is tert-nonyl or tert-dodecyl or (CH₂)₂COOR₃ or (CH₂)₂CN, where R₃ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl, especially i-octyl, i-tridecyl, n-dodecyl, stearyl; or

R₂, if n is 2, is -S-(CH₂)_p-S- with p ranging from 2 to 6; with the proviso that the compound of the formula II'a

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is excluded.

8. A method of grafting a compound of formula I according to claim 1 onto an elastomer, which comprises heating a mixture of elastomer and at least one compound of formula I according to claim 1 above the softening point of the elastomer and allowing them to react with one another.
9. Use of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as a stabiliser for an elastomer to prevent oxidative, thermal, dynamic, light-induced and/or ozone-induced degradation and/or contact discoloration of substrates coming into contact with the elastomer.
10. A process for stabilizing an elastomer to prevent oxidative, thermal, dynamic, light-induced and/or ozone-induced degradation and preventing contact discoloration of substrates coming into contact with the elastomer, which process comprises incorporating into these or applying to these at least one compound of formula I according to claim 1.